

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05346 091624Z

72

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 091418Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763

INFO USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWS

REF: A. STATE 93109; B. PARIS 11042 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF SAW DR. 'ATIYYA, HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN LEBANON, MORNING MAY 9 AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM REPORT MENTIONED REF A. DR. 'ATIYYA, WHO HAD READ LE FIGARO ARTICLE, STATED HE HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING TO CORROBORATE STATEMENT THAT MASS GRAVE WITH 70 JEWISH CORPSES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED. DR. 'ATIYYA WENT ON TO SAY HE DOUBTED SUCH AN OCCURRENCE HAD TAKEN PLACE. IF IT HAD, HE WOULD HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT. HE SAID DURING LAST FEW WEEKS SEVERAL LEGAL JEWISH TRAVELERS HAD COME TO BEIRUT FROM SYRIA FOR MEDICAL REASONS OR FOR OTHER OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES. HAD SUCH A GRAVE BEEN DISCOVERED THEY WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT IT. DR. 'ATIYYA SAID ALSO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES FROM OUTSIDE SYRIA WHO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN SYRIA WOULD HAVE KNOWN OF SUCH A DISCOVERY AND WOULD HAVE INFORMED HIM. HENCE HE DOUBTED THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ARTICLE. DR. 'ATIYYA COMMENTED THAT WHEN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05346 091624Z

HE READ ARTICLE HE WAS "ASTONISHED" THAT "SERIOUS"

PUBLICATION, LIKE LE FIGARO, WOULD PUBLISH "UNSUB-STANTIATED" INFORMATION.

2. DR. 'ATIYYA REPORTED LAST INCIDENT HE AWARE OF IS THAT OF FOUR MURDERED GIRLS. THE ACCUSED, TWO MOSLEMS AND TWO JEWS, ARE STILL BEING INTERROGATED. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TRIED OR SENTENCED YET.

3. DR. 'ATIYYA VOLUNTEERED THAT EXCEPT FOR ELDERLY JEWISH LADY AWAITING BRAZILIAN VISA, ALL (SYRIAN/IRAQI) JEWS IN LEBANON WHO WANT TO LEAVE HAVE LEFT. GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT05346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740113-0755
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740562/aaaacdkm.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 93109; B. PARIS 11042 (NOTA, L)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005